

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 /072 W

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R 270846Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL OPORTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 906

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L OPORTO 364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL/LABOR DEVELOPMENTS

REF: OPORTO 356

1. PREPARATIONS FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS:(OPORTO PRESS HAS BEGUN CARRYING DAILY ACCOUNTS OF PRESENTATION OF CANDIDATES LISTS BY RESPECTIVE PARTIES IN VARIOUS CITIES THROUGHOUT THE NORTH. "PEOPLE UNITED" (PU) ELECTORAL FRONT FORMED BY PCP AND COMMUNIST-LINING DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT MDP/CDB HAS CONSISTENTLY BEEN THE FIRST PARTY TO ANNOUNCE ITS CANDIDATES IN NORTHERN URBAN AREAS. SOME PU POSTERS HAVE ALSO APPEARED ON OPORTO WALLS WELL IN ADVANCE OF OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN PERIOD. CDS APPEARS TO BE THE SLOWEST PARTY IN FORMING CANDIDATE LISTS. SOCIALISTS (PS) ARE PREDICTABLY USING SOME NATIONAL FIGURES TO CONTEST LOCAL ELECTIONS SUCH AS TITO DE MORAIS, SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT, RUNNING FOR MUNICIPAL ASSEMBLY IN VIANA. SURPRISE CANDIDATE IS AURELIANO CAPELO VELOSO, BROTHER OF NORTHERN REGION MILITARY COMMANDER BG. PIRES VELOSO, WHO HEADS THE PS LIST OF CANDIDATES FOR OPORTO MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AS AN INDEPENDENT.

COMMENT: AURELIANO VELOSO IS A VIRTUAL SHOO-IN TO BE NEXT
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OPORTO MAYOR GIVEN HIS NAME AND THE PARTY HE REPRESENTS

WHICH WAS THE PLURALITY PARTY IN OPORTO DISTRICT WITH OVER 40 PER CENT IN APRIL, 1976. HIS CANDIDACY IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE THE BLESSING OF HIS BROTHER AND UNDERSCORES EMBASSY'S CONCLUSIONS CONCERNING BG. VELOSO'S IMMEDIATE AIMS. (LISBON 7213).

2. WEEKEND RALLIES: PU HELD RALLY OCTOBER 25 UNDER GUISE OF BEING A PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL AT OPORTO'S ACADEMIC HALL TO PRESENT SOME OF ITS CITY CANDIDATES. OPORTO UNIVERSITY RECTOR EMERITUS RUI LUIS GOMES PRESIDED. ACCORDING TO CONSULATE OBSERVER SOME 2500 GATHERED TO HEAR SPEAKERS ATTACK PROVOCATIONS AND DIVERSIONIST TACTICS OF ULTRA LEFT AND RIGHT. PU CLAIMED ITS CANDIDATES LISTS WERE PREPARED IN TOTAL HARMONY WITH PEOPLE'S WISHES. OPORTO PSD/PPD CHAPTER COMPLAINED THAT PU JUMPED THE GUN FOR LOCAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN PERIOD WITH OCTOBER 25 RALLY.

ANOTHER OCTOBER 25 DEMONSTRATION WAS ORGANIZED BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL OF OPORTO NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS TO PROTEST EVICTIONS FROM OCCUPIED HOUSES AND CUTBACK IN OPORTO LOCAL HOUSING SERVICE (SAAL). HEAVY AFTERNOON DOWNPOURS FAILED TO STOP ESTIMATED CFOWD OF 1000 FROM MARCHING THROUGH DOWNTOWN OPORTO. NO INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED.

COMMENT: MARCH WAS CLEARLY CONTROLLED BY OPORTO POPULAR UNITY GROUPS (GDUP) EMPLOYING LOCAL SAAL THEME AS EXCUSE TO STEP UP ITS OWN ACTIVITIES. SAAL WAS POST-REVOLUTIONARY SCHEME TO LOCATE AND FINANCE HOUSING FOR THE IMPOVERISHED. DOMINATED BY ULTRA-LEFTISTS FROM THE START, SAAL HEADQUARTERS IN OPORTO WERE BOMBED IN JANUARY.

OPORTO VICE GOVERNOR TOLD ME OCTOBER 22 THAT CUTBACK WAS NECESSARY BECAUSE SAAL ACCOMPLISHED NO COMMUNITY PURPOSE AND WASTED ENORMOUS SUMS INCLUDING \$1000 MONTHLY SALARY FOR CHILEAN "CONSULTANT".

3. SHOE STRIKE: AVEIRO DISTRICT SHOE WORKERS WENT ON STRIKE OCTOBER 26 (REFTEL PARA 3) . NEWS MEDIA IS NOTABLY UNSYMPATHETIC AND REPORTED ONLY 50 PER CENT ADHERENCE. OPORTO DISTRICT REFUSED TO CAVE IN TO INTERSINDICAL PRESSURE AND
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VOTED NOT TO STRIKE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, LABOR RELATIONS, PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION CANDIDATES, ELECTION CAMPAIGNS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OPORTO00364
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760401-1070
From: OPORTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761013/aaaaalcs.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 OPORTO 356
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 AUG 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL/LABOR DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINT, ELAB, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006